

# HAPPY END OF DAYS!



WILL THE WORLD END ON FRIDAY AS THE MAYANS SUPPOSEDLY FORETOLD? THOUGH WE CAN'T TELL YOU FOR SURE, METRO PRESENTS A HANDY GUIDE TO THE APOCALYPSE

PAGES 6 &amp; 7

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## IQ is a myth: Western profs

**Tests debunked.** You may be smarter than you think — new study says there are at least three types of intelligence


**AMANDA  
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Tests for human intelligence quotient aren't all they're cracked up to be, a new study released Wednesday suggests.

"I think IQ tests are a massive oversimplification," said Adam Hampshire, one-half of the team of researchers who say they have debunked the IQ myth. "I would be incredibly skeptical of their results."

Traditional IQ tests favour one type of intelligence, Hampshire said, but people can be smart in many ways. He and his partner, Adrian Owen, from Western University's Brain and Mind Institute, created a new test that gauges a person's intelligence in a variety of streams. It was posted online and gathered tens of



**Adam Hampshire** is part of a research team that found human intelligence can't be boiled down to one component, as in traditional IQ tests. CONTRIBUTED

thousands of hits in just a few weeks.

The day the initial trial went live, thousands of people signed on and they broke it," Hampshire said. "People started emailing their scores and putting them on Facebook challenging their friends, and it went viral. It was exhilarating and remarkably stress-free."

The massive response gave the duo a broad sample of information from people around the world aged 12 to 70. The study found that there are three main types of intelligence. One deals with short-term memory, another with reason and logic and the third with a person's strength at variable testing.

"It shows that you really can't capture the spectrum of human cognitive ability using just one number like on a traditional IQ test,"

Hampshire said. "There are different types of intelligence and that intelligence has its place in different parts of the brain."

Because of the wide demographic sample, the study also managed to address strengths of different types of people based on age and interests. For example, people who play video games were at a massive advantage when it came to short-term memory and reasoning.

"You have to be careful not to jump to causal conclusions," Hampshire said, "but this could be because playing video games is like a form of brain training."

An updated version of the intelligence test went live on Wednesday and includes 14 brain-teasers asking you to identify patterns and retain information.

"The tests are based on the classic intelligence literature, but I've changed them in a number of ways," Hampshire said. "I've tried to make them more dynamic and more entertaining. And we've integrated Facebook so you can challenge your friends."

The findings from the landmark study were published in the science journal Neuron.



Londoners like Tania Dupon-Martinez, 23, and others worried about their intelligence quotient can breathe a sigh of relief. Western researchers have released a study debunking the myth of IQ tests, concluding that traditional tests evaluate only one kind of intelligence, ignoring a person's strengths in the areas of short-term memory, reasoning, logic and other realms of cognition. AMANDA GRANT/FOR METRO

### Who's who of high IQs

- The average person scores between 70 and 130 on an intelligence-quotient test.
- Albert Einstein had a score of 160, as does Stephen Hawking.

### Take the test

Go to [cambridgebrainsciences.com/theIQchallenge](http://cambridgebrainsciences.com/theIQchallenge) to take the new test and see where you stand on the intelligence spectrum.



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# Idle No More: First Nations protesters target London

## Opposing Bill C-45.

Wednesday march is one of many as campaign aimed at saving environment, land builds steam

 ANGELA MULLINS  
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Beating drums, hurling insults at the Harper government, and gridlocking traffic, about a thousand First Nations people descended on London on Wednesday as part of a nationwide protest centred on treaty rights.

The activists paraded along Highway 401/402, Wellington Road and through downtown — the path their ancestors took to the Thames River — as police turned to Twitter urging patience from drivers.

Many wore red armbands and headbands during the four-hour, approximately 18-kilometre march, a sign of sovereignty, the protesters said. People chanted "Idle no more" — the phrase that's become the grassroots campaign's motto — as they neared the forks of the river for a rally.

"We've waited for things to happen. We haven't made them happen," Chippewa of the Thames First Nations Chief Joe Miskokomon said. "It's time for the government to stand up and listen to us."

Backers of the Idle No More movement say federal policies — specifically those in omnibus budget legislation, Bill C-45 — are weakening environmental



Hundreds of protesters proceed walking and driving along eastbound Highway 401 on Wednesday. The indigenous peoples' rights march blocked the highway before heading into London, ending with a rally downtown. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

laws and hurting aboriginal communities. First Nations should be recognized as sovereign stakeholders in decisions affecting land and resources, they claim.

"We are the government in this country, and (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper has to start recognizing that," Glen Hare, the Anishinabek Nation's deputy grand chief said Wednesday. "Harper has crossed the line... Don't give Canada away and don't sell us."

Idle No More started in Saskatchewan, spreading across Canada and into the U.S. The first protests were launched

Dec. 10 and this week's efforts are expected to culminate with a Friday rally on Parliament Hill.

Some who participated in Wednesday's march vowed support for Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation, who is entering the second week of a hunger strike, demanding more respect for First Nations' concerns and treaties. The strike has sparked concerns in Ottawa with opposition parties calling on Harper to meet with aboriginal leaders.

Tensions between the First Nations and Harper's government have been brewing for

## Manifesto

### Taking a stand

The Idle No More manifesto claims Canada has become "one of the wealthiest countries in the world" on the backs of First Nations people.

"Some of the poorest First

Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit," the manifesto reads. "The taking of resources has left many lands and waters poisoned — the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada."

years and have reached a tipping point, some said Wednesday.

"We've been a very patient

people," said Tom Bressette, chief of the Kettle Point First Nation. "It's (about) time our patience is running thin."

## Taking Bill 115 to the streets

Thames Valley elementary teachers won't be the only people protesting Thursday.

Students from several area high schools are planning a march through downtown to Liberal MPP Deb Matthews' Piccadilly Street office to speak out against Bill 115.

Hundreds of secondary school students walked out of London classrooms last week, showing their support for teachers locked in a contract battle with the province. Leaders of Thursday's protest hope a Victoria Park rally, followed by the march, will send an even stronger message that they're frustrated too.

"We're hoping this will be (more) high profile, and at a better intersection where people are going to see us," said Jaime Martinez, 17, a Grade 11 student at Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School.



Grade 11 student Jaime Martinez, 17, of London, signs a postcard on Dec. 10 asking the legislature to ditch Bill 115.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Students have been circulating petitions asking the government to overturn legislation that freezes teachers' wages and bans strikes. Teachers say

## Thursday rally

4 p.m.: Time students plan to start a Thursday rally in Victoria Park to support teachers fighting Bill 115.

the law, expected to take effect Jan. 1, violates their collective bargaining rights.

Secondary school teachers started a work-to-rule campaign Dec. 10, forcing Thames Valley administrators to pause sports and cancel assemblies.

High school students have launched a Facebook site called "Students Against Bill 115," calling for continued action to protect teachers' rights.

"If this is going to be a long-term thing then we have to keep working toward more walkouts or protests," Martinez said. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

## Anti-strike bill. About 4,800 Ontario teachers walk out in protest

More than 4,800 elementary school teachers with the Bluewater, Algoma, and Halton school boards staged a one-day walkout Wednesday.

Thursday's walkouts involve school boards in Thames Valley, eastern and northwestern Ontario. For a list of London schools affected by the walkout, visit metronews.ca.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario says the one-day strikes are to protest controversial legislation that gives the provincial government the power to end strikes and impose a collective agreement on the teachers.

Federation president Sam Hammond has said Education Minister Laurel Broten can end the rotating strikes by re-

pealing Bill 115 and letting local bargaining proceed without interference.

Broten says she's "disappointed" by the continuing job action, but says the federation is in a legal strike position and that the government decided to let the strikes happen as long as they were only for one day at each board.

Tens of thousands of elementary students in eight Ontario school boards — including the province's largest — had no classes Tuesday as their teachers staged one-day strikes.

The ETFO says 35,000 teachers, nearly half of the teachers it represents, hit the picket lines Tuesday in the ongoing labour dispute with the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS

## Middlesex-London

**More flu cases reported**

More than a dozen hospitalizations and nearly 40 confirmed cases occurred last week as the Middlesex-London Health Unit continues to fight the flu. Between Dec. 11 and the end of day Monday, 38 new lab-confirmed cases of flu were reported, all of them influenza A. Fifteen hospitalizations were from among these cases. METRO

## Parole skipper

**Missing offender may be in London**

The OPP are asking for the public's help in locating a federal offender. A parole-enforcement squad is looking for Stephen Richman, 50. He is five feet eight, 161 pounds, with blue eyes, grey hair, a long beard and a tattoo of a rose on his upper left arm. He is serving a four-year, 11-month sentence for robbery, possession of a weapon, assault with a weapon and



Stephen Richman AM980.CA

theft. Richman is known to visit London, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto areas. Information may be reported to 1-800-222-8477 (Crime Stoppers). AM980.CA

## Pharma Plus

**Police investigate drug store robbery**

London police are looking for a suspect in a Monday drug-store robbery.

Police said the man was armed with a knife and took an undisclosed amount of cash from the Pharma Plus at 611 Wonderland Rd. N.

He's described as white, about six feet tall and was last seen wearing a brown jacket, blue jeans, a grey



Robbery suspect AM980.CA

toque, black shoes and sunglasses.

People with information should call 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477 (TIPS). METRO

## Attempted murder

**Plea entered in St. Thomas attack**

A St. Thomas teen has pleaded guilty to attempted murder for an attack that left a nine-year-old boy with serious injuries. The youth appeared in court on Tuesday and is scheduled to return to court Feb. 6. Police have said they found the victim bleeding profusely from a cut across his neck Nov. 17. The teen knew the victim, police said. AM980.CA

# Charities seek holiday help



Staff at Budweiser Gardens show off the \$7,000 worth of toys gathered for the Children's Aid Society this year. AMANDA GRANT/FOR METRO

**Donations.** Fundraising campaigns and food drives across London feel the pinch with unusual lows this year

AMANDA GRANT  
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It's been a tough year for local charities, and it hasn't gotten easier over the holidays.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the annual Business Cares Food Drive was almost 100,000 pounds of food short of its target goal — a goal that is only a pound more than last year's total.

"It is more difficult this year than ever before," said Wayne Dunn, co-chair of the campaign. "We've been doing this for 13 years and it's always come down to the last two or three days, but it's never been this tight."

The food drive ends Thursday morning when donations will be packed up and delivered to the London Food Bank.

The Salvation Army is facing similar trouble. As of Tuesday, the annual Kettle Campaign was about \$10,000 off last year's pace.

"I think all charities are feeling it," Dunn said. "The need is up and fewer people

## Faiths working together

The London Muslim mosque, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and St. John the Divine parish teamed up to raise food for the less fortunate this year. The initiative was an inter-faith outreach plan designed to help members of each community put food on the table over the holidays.

are able to give. I think it's more economy-related than anything."

Budweiser Gardens gave \$7,000 worth of toys to the Children's Aid Society on Wednesday, all donated by the public at an open-house skating event.

"The community responded to our ask for help and I think there are some kids who will be happy Christmas morning," said Brian Ohl, general manager of Budweiser Gardens.

It was a welcome gift, said Elizabeth Almedia, co-ordinator of development for the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex.

"We have to stay optimistic," Dunn said. "Londoners are quite generous."

To donate, go to businesscares.ca, centreofhope.ca, or caslondon.on.ca.

# Ornge appoints chief coroner as new CEO



Deb Matthews, health minister and London North Centre MPP, said Ornge's new CEO would "continue the momentum" started by Ron McKerlie. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's embattled air-ambulance service has swooped in to snag the province's chief coroner to serve as its new president and CEO.

Dr. Andrew McCallum was appointed chief coroner in 2008 and is also a specialist in emergency medicine who has trained as a flight surgeon in the Canadian Forces.

The chairman of Ornge's board of directors said in a statement that the board is "very pleased" to have McCallum.

"His professional expertise and breadth of experience are an exceptional fit for the organ-

ization," Ian W. Delaney wrote. "He knows first-hand the needs of patients and emergency health care delivery."

Ron McKerlie has been interim president and CEO since early this year and McCallum will start on Jan. 21.

According to Ornge's website, the salary of the chief executive officer is capped at \$418,000. The issue of executive salaries has been a sensitive one for Ornge, which is trying to rebuild public trust after a year of scandals that included ex-CEO Chris Mazza's \$1.4-million compensation package, an alleged kickback scheme

and what one politician called "heavy-duty nepotism."

McCallum said in a statement that he is "thrilled" with the new opportunity.

"I look forward to working to ensure that Ontarians receive the timely and appropriate medical care they need when they are being airlifted or transported to hospital in our aircraft and vehicles," he wrote.

"I believe Ornge has the skilled and committed personnel to accomplish this mission and working with these excellent people is one of the reasons I want to do this job."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Statement

Health Minister Deb Matthews thanked McCallum for serving as interim president and CEO, saying that under his leadership, Ornge has turned a corner.

- "Working with frontline staff at Ornge, Dr. McCallum will continue the momentum in strengthening the high-quality service Ornge provides to Ontario patients," Matthews said in a statement.



*"With the holidays coming up I can send pictures, email or text my family, even if they are not in my city, which keeps me connected."*

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## How will you spend your last night on Earth?

  
**"I wouldn't do anything differently. I just don't see the point. I'm not a crazy guy to begin with."**

Eavan Kheraj, Vancouver

  
**"I would probably spend it with my family and friends. I don't really know what else to say."**

Diane Leng, Calgary

  
**"I can't say what I'd really do because it's not appropriate to print in a newspaper."**

Luke Kellener, Fernie/Perth

  
**"I'm a space fan, so I would like to ... look up at the outer world with (my son) one last time."**

Barry Obondo, Edmonton

  
**"I would get a plane to Australia ... though I probably wouldn't get there in 24 hours."**

Elaine Fitzpatrick, Saskatoon

  
**"I would live it up with all my friends and family and I wouldn't even think about tomorrow."**

Jaci Youngson, Regina

# Doom awaits us — later

**2012 prophecy.** The world won't end on Dec. 21, experts say, but there are plenty of ways Earth could go

  
**KIERON MONKS**  
 Metro World News in London, U.K.

It was fun while it lasted, but it seems the world is ending. A growing clamour, based on the Mayan calendar, insists that Dec. 21, 2012, will mark the death of humanity. Even NASA has received thousands of terrified messages from the public.

But the calendar has been misinterpreted, say experts, who claim the "end" refers only to the end of a cycle. The Mayan calendar is split into 394-year "baktuns," and 2012 will see a new era.

"The 13th Baktun will end on Dec. 21, and another will start," says Ines Valera-Silva, a researcher in Mayan studies at Loughborough University in the U.K. "That's all. A catastrophe has never been predicted." Mayans today have stopped



**Who'll look the fool if Earth does end? Worshippers gather at Kukulkan temple at Chichen Itza, Mexico.** CUARTOSCURO

using the old calendar, Valera-Silva adds. "There is no reason to interpret this as a prophecy, but obviously some people are excited by it."

Hollywood movies and social media have driven the debate on exactly how the world will end. One Facebook page with 13,000 fans suggests it will come from a cosmic

event.

"The biggest threat is a comet impact," says Benny Peiser, catastrophe specialist and founder of climate policy network CCNet. "It happens every few million years and could happen at any time. Astronomers are scanning the sky for potential risks, and we need to solve the problem for good by

developing the technology to deflect asteroids."

More speculators believe a black hole will open and swallow us all. The fear led to widespread criticism of scientists working on the Large Hadron Collider, rumoured to be capable of producing a black hole.

Humankind may not need

cosmic forces to bring down armageddon. The Cold War may be over, but the number of nuclear nations has grown swiftly — and with it, the risk of a "final war."

"It's no secret how to make the weapons and it's not hard to think of people crazy enough to use them," says Alan Robock, environmental scientist at Rutgers University and author of Nuclear Winter Revisited.

Threat of terrorism beside, Robock sees a risk in regional feuds between nuclear powers India and Pakistan or Israel and Iran.

Environmentalists point to rising sea levels and the threat of a supervolcano, while nanotechnology may yet produce microorganisms that kill us from the inside.

The endless possibilities explain the interest in bookmaker William Hill's offer of 1,000,000-to-1 on the world ending.

"Some may say it is a bet we can never lose, for the obvious reason that we won't be here to pay out should it happen," spokesman Graham Sharpe says, but several bets have already been placed.

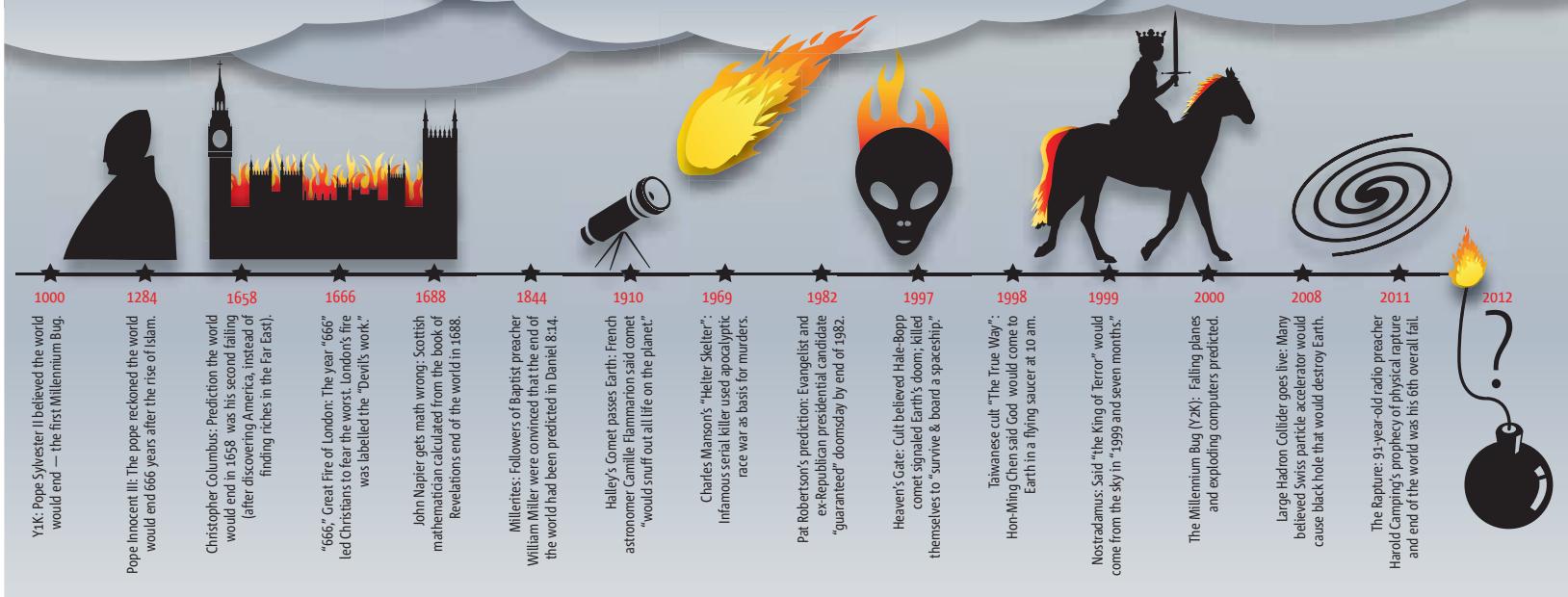
## Apocalypse options

- **Comet strike.** Still the most immediate threat; likely to be sudden. **Fear factor: 7/10**
- **Nuclear war.** Growing and probably more likely than world peace. **FF: 6/10**
- **Global warming.** Rising sea already threatening some islands; slow burn. **FF: 4/10**
- **Disease pandemic.** Could happen but unlikely to catch us by surprise. **FF: 2/10**
- **Sun burnout.** A sure thing but will be in 4.5 billion years' time. **FF: 0/10**



**Bedtime reading: This Mayan manuscript suggests an end to a calendar cycle.** GETTY IMAGES

## END OF THE WORLD: TIMELINE OF FAILED PREDICTIONS



  
“Disney World.... Where else would you rather be but the happiest place on Earth?”

Chris Hancock, Winnipeg

  
“I already live every day like it's the last. So, (I'd) just carry on. I don't make future plans.”

Andrew Goddard, London

  
“Blissfully ignorant that it is the last day on Earth. I just would not want to be aware.”

Candice McCavitt, Toronto

  
“I would make a list of everyone in my life that I had something important to say to.”

Kirk Raybould, Toronto

  
“I would break all the laws, all the rules. No drugs, no alcohol: it's not something you need at the end.”

Fred Labonte, Ottawa

  
“I'd probably buy unlimited sushi ... drink a lot and not worry about the hangover the next day.”

Leanne Stevens, Halifax

  
**ERIKA PADRÓN**  
Metro World News in Mexico

José Natividad Ic Xec, a native Mayan living in Mérida, capital of Yucatán in Mexico where the Mayan civilization once thrived, has dedicated his life to promote his culture and tradition. Xec explains what the doomsday prophecy really means for his compatriots.

#### What does Dec. 21 mean to the Mayan people?

For Mayans living in Yucatán, this date means nothing. Like anyone else, we spend that day thinking about what we are going to eat, about our jobs or what the next few months will be like for us. This date was only conceived as a stage in a calendar, as Dec. 22 marks the end of 13 baktuns, (a baktun is a period of 394 years or 144,000 days). And so, it's just the end of an era in a calendar.

#### So the end-of-the-world prophecy is all fantasy?

People speak of a revolution in human consciousness, a new light that will shine upon the world. Believers talk of some kind of transformation and will gather at the Mayan pyramids to perform some kind of ritual. But all of this is not attributed to the Maya; we really don't care about it — on the contrary, it makes us laugh. Our people know little about the



**José Natividad Ic Xec**

- Age: 49
- Born: Peto, a Mayan village in Mexican state Yucatán.
- Background: Parents were Mayan speakers; grew up speaking Mayan and later learned Spanish; at the end of secondary school moved to Mérida, where he currently resides; worked at the Diario de Yucatán newspaper for 17 years; also studied philosophy and theology at the Seminario Conciliar de Yucatán.

continue to grow. On my website, I publish stories on Mayan culture and its characteristics.

#### Do you yourself have any plans to mark the Mayan event?

Yes, on Dec. 21 and 22, I will be doing live broadcasts from (ancient Mayan site) Chichén Itzá. I will be chatting to Mayans who live in the area. I want them to tell me about how they live. Perhaps they will perform some traditional dancing. I will also talk to other experts like myself who have worked their whole lives to promote Mayan culture. But for all this to happen, I need sponsors. But I'm aware that our old indigenous culture is not a big seller.

## DECEMBER 21 MAKES MAYANS LAUGH

Native Mayan José Natividad Ic Xec tells Metro their calendar's end has nothing to do with the world's end

ancient Mayan Long Count calendar. The only thing we know is that the date Dec. 22 marks an end in the calendar, but people are using the date Dec. 21 because it is the solstice and thus a more memorable date.

#### Then why is the date such a big deal?

Experts claim that the 13th baktun is a good opportunity for people to make a profit out of those who believe. And if those faithful genuinely believe in it, they would be

frightened; they would look for a bunker or think about a plan of survival. So this end of the world talk is only a bit of fun.

You use social networks to promote your culture. How

popular is Chilam Balam (Xec's blog based on the Mayan document allegedly containing prophecies)?

It's a concept that I started two years ago, first on Twitter and Facebook, then on a blog, which I hope will

## Doomsday industry still booming despite the lessons of the past



Doomsday plan: dress up like a Mayan and party hard. CONTRIBUTED

Are you done your apocalypse shopping yet? You could throw down \$30,000 on a space in a luxury underground bunker or a cheaper "survival kit" that can help you eat grass. Apocalypse literature is booming, with sales from the Left Behind book series worth almost \$1 billion.

It's a modern update of the paper "pardons" sold as insurance against judgment day in the Middle Ages. Many experts trace the birth of the apocalypse industry to the U.S. Millerite movement, when preacher William Miller launched a campaign to promote his vision of doomsday in the 1840s.

"Systematic commercialization first arose from fear of nuclear war in the 1960s, with companies building bomb

shelters," says Lorne Dawson, sociologist and author of Prophetic Failure and Millennial Movements. "That showed the business opportunity, and it continued with the surviv-

alist movement of the 1970s and the growing fear of an eco-catastrophe."

The years 2000 and 2012 have revived the focus, and Dawson believes it taps into a

basic human desire. "Simple psychology shows that people need to believe they do not live in chaos, that there is a higher purpose."

Doom preaching has drawn backlash following cases such as the 2011 suicide of British teenager Isabel Taylor. "It's an industry that exploits anxiety and can be dangerous," says Bill Hudson, astronomer and editor of the 2012hoax blog.

Even if 2012 passes without incident, don't expect the industry to stop. "Even when a theory is debunked, a core group tends to become even more fervent," says Hudson. "True believers are locked in. You can't reason someone out of a position they didn't reason themselves into."

KIERON MONKS/MWN IN LONDON, U.K.

## Mexico. Prophecy injects billions into economy

#### Party like a Mayan

More than 500 Mayan-themed events will have taken place by the end of the year.

• **Festival Mundo Maya.** Folk festival that celebrates Mayan traditions in the Mexican city of Campeche until Dec. 30.

• **The Gran Museo del Mundo Maya.** Located in Merida, Yucatan's capital, the museum holds precious Mayan artifacts.

• **The End of the Long Count Mayan Calendar.** The 365-step pyramid of Chichén Itzá will host a ceremonial event on Dec. 21.

Mexico put aside \$10 million for a 2012 project last summer.  
AGUSTÍN VELASCO/MWN IN MEXICO

# He's the Cosmo Canuck! Hadfield blasts into space

## Up, up and away.

'It's a great day for Canada,' says our Governor General after successful launch from Kazakhstan

Now call him Cosmo Chris.

Chris Hadfield has successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

He was on his way Wednesday on a mission to become the first Canadian to command the International Space Station.

Hadfield is travelling to the space station on board a Russian Soyuz capsule for a five-month visit to the giant orbiting space lab.

He is sharing the trip to the space station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston called Hadfield's launch "a great day for Canada, a great day for the world of discovery and innovation."

He joined the families of Canadian Space Agency em-



No sleeping, please — you're spacemen. Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, left, U.S. astronaut Tom Marshburn and Canada's Chris Hadfield have put on their spacesuits at the Baikonur Cosmodrome and play a little snoozing joke on the media. Next stop: The International Space Station.

SHAMIL ZHUMATOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ployees at its headquarters south of Montreal to watch the event on a giant TV screen.

"We're so proud that Chris Hadfield now is up in space — the first Canadian to be

commanding the space station in March," he said.

"And now we simply pray for a continued safe mission and a safe return."

During his stay, Hadfield, an avid guitar player, plans to

do some strumming to help him deal with homesickness.

The 53-year-old space veteran will also be involved with more than 130 experiments including Micro-flow, a Canadian blood-sampling ex-

periment which he compared to a hospital in a box.

Hadfield will become the first Canadian to command the space station during the second half of his mission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Oh, no. French village invaded by aliens ... CNN, BBC, CBS and more

There has been an invasion of strangers in the sleepy hamlet of Bugarach, cradled in the foothills of the French Pyrénées.

Doomsday theories say this tiny village in the south of France will be the earth's only safe haven on Dec. 21 — the date the world will come to an end, according to erroneous interpretations of the ancient Mayan calendar.

As Friday draws near, local police and the French military are surrounding the village and closing off roads, just in case apocalyptic hordes do show up.

They are preparing for every scenario, from cult suicides to doomsday tourists injuring themselves on the mountain rising behind the village — Pic de Bugarach — where some believe an alien saviour has been camped out for thousands of years.

Now the village's two main streets are filling with people from all over the globe — though not of the New Age or End of Days variety. No, the strangers being encountered are of a third kind.

"It's all journalists — CNN,

### Doomsday scenario

**It all began two years ago when some bizarre chatter about Bugarach turned up online.**

- Hello sailor.** Bugarach, according to all the apocalyptic web talk, will transform into an extraterrestrial Noah's Ark, sailing in on Dec. 21.

- Beam 'em up.** An alien saviour's spaceship will rise from a hangar under the village and beam up people in the area and ferry them to some intergalactic safe haven — or so the story goes.

BBC, CBS News," says Patrice Etienne, who owns Bugarach's only store.

"People from Sweden, England, Germany ...

"It's the first time we have 200 journalists from all around the world coming for nothing. It's incredible."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Pet owner wages battle to regain Ikea monkey

A woman whose pet monkey was found wearing a shearling coat in a Toronto Ikea parking lot was protesting Wednesday at a Toronto Animal Services office.

It was part of her battle to get back her beloved pet.

Yasmin Nakhuda says the tiny primate was illegally taken from her by animal control officials and moved to the Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont., where he now lives.

She is due in court Thursday to try to get an interim order to have the Japanese macaque named Darwin returned to her.

About 15 supporters protested with her, urging animal services to "free Darwin."

Nakhuda's lawyer, Ted Charney, says he has been told the sanctuary plans to ask for the case to be adjourned Thursday, but the lawyer representing the sanctuary did not return a request for comment.

The young monkey captured worldwide attention this month when he was spotted wandering the store parking lot in a little coat.



Yasmin Nakhuda leads a protest Wednesday at a Toronto Animal Services office in a bid to get her pet monkey Darwin back. Darwin became an international viral sensation after being found in an Ikea parking lot.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nakhuda, a real estate lawyer, says she was never given the chance to remedy the situation after being fined \$240 for breaking the city's prohibited-animal bylaw.

"There has been no due process of law," she told a Toronto radio station.

"Any animal taken away from an owner, the owner would have had the chance

to relocate or do something to move with the animal, that's what's prescribed by the bylaw."

In court documents, she says she, her husband and their two kids would be willing to move to a city that allows monkeys in order to keep Darwin, whom they consider part of the family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Top court rules

## Big unions lose fight for \$28B

The Supreme Court of Canada says several major public unions are not entitled to a \$28-billion pension surplus the government hived off to help pay down the deficit.

The unanimous high court ruled 9-0 that the government is not obliged to return funds to the public sector unions.

The unions argued the government improperly took their money from the mandatory, defined benefit plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Youth now key

## Feds make point on immigration

The points system used to decide who can immigrate to Canada is getting a makeover.

The new judging criteria for the federal skilled worker program will award more points to younger immigrants and change the way the government looks at work experience and education.

The way points are allocated for language ability will also change.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Recovering

## Snowboarder lost for two days

A 33-year-old snowboarder from Ottawa is recovering after being rescued from a wilderness area north of Vancouver where he was stranded for two days.

Sebastien Boucher got lost Sunday after straying out of bounds near the Cypress Mountain ski area.

Initial attempts to find him were hampered by poor weather and the risk of avalanches. THE CANADIAN PRESS/NEWS 1130/CKNW

### We're not so jolly

## Happy? You're in Latin America

The world's happiest people aren't in Qatar, the richest country by most measures. They aren't in Japan, the nation with the highest life expectancy. Canada doesn't make the top 10.

A poll released Wednesday of nearly 150,000 people around the world says seven of the world's 10 countries with the most upbeat attitudes are in Latin America.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Obama wants 'real progress, right now'

## Gun control.

President balances 2nd amendment rights and steady wave of killings in proactive address

U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded "concrete proposals" on curbing gun violence that he could send to Congress no later than January — an urgent effort to build on the growing political consensus over gun restrictions following last week's massacre of children at a Connecticut school.

"This time, the words need to lead to action," Obama said. He said he will push legislation "without delay" and urged Congress to hold votes on the bill next year.

"The fact that we can't prevent every act of violence doesn't mean we can't steadily reduce the violence," Obama said.

The policy process Obama was announcing Wednesday was expected to include input from the departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services. The Department of Homeland Security is also expected to play a key role. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



**U.S. President Barack Obama stands with Vice-President Joe Biden as he makes a statement Wednesday at the White House. Biden, a longtime gun-control advocate, will be spearheading efforts for a new gun policy.** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## No excuses

"The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing."

Barack Obama

after killing his mother at home.



## Funeral processions continue in Newtown

Firefighters wait for a procession at the main intersection in the village of Newtown, Conn., on Wednesday, as they pay respects to Daniel Gerard Barden, one of the students killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The small, quiet town has seen gridlock traffic caused by funeral processions, as well as the large number of national and international media covering the aftermath of the shooting. Barden, 7, was killed when the gunman, Adam Lanza, walked into the school last Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children, before killing himself.

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Lanza. Medical examiner seeking answers in DNA

Connecticut's chief medical examiner says he's seeking genetic clues to help explain why a gunman killed 20 children and six adults in a school rampage after killing his mother.

Dr. H. Wayne Carver tells The Hartford Courant that he wants to know if there is any identifiable disease associated with the behaviour of the shooter, Adam Lanza.

Paula Levy, a mediator who worked with Lanza's

parents, says Lanza had been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, an autism-like disorder.

Carver says Asperger's is not associated with violent behaviour. He says he's not considering it as a reason for Lanza's rampage on Friday.

Carver is awaiting toxicology testing results for Lanza and other information.

Lanza fatally shot himself as first responders approached. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Guns in Canada. Tories repeal gun-show rules

The Conservative government has repealed federal gun show regulations, on the advice of the same controversial advisory committee the prime minister recently rebuked.

The changes kill a set of rules that were introduced by the Liberals in 1998, but never brought into force after years of deferrals.

The regulations would have required the sponsor of a gun show to notify police and the chief firearms officer of the

province before an event, and to ensure the security and safety of the location and the guns.

The government says it consulted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, which felt the vast majority already follow the rules.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected the committee's other recommendations to loosen certain gun control laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



# India incensed over gang rape on bus

**Delhi.** Protesters, politicians demand action after near-fatal attack shocks a nation

The hours-long gang rape and near-fatal beating of a 23-year-old student on a bus in New Delhi triggered outrage and anger across India on Wednesday as protesters demanded action from authorities who have long ignored persistent violence and harassment against women.

In the streets and in Parliament, calls rose for stringent and swift punishment against those who attack women, including a proposal to make rapists eligible for the death penalty. As the calls for action grew louder, two more gang rapes were reported, including one in which the 10-year-old victim was killed.

Thousands of demonstrators clogged the streets in front of New Delhi's police

headquarters, protested near Parliament and rallied outside a major university. Angry university students set up roadblocks across the city, causing massive traffic jams.

Hundreds rallied outside the home of the city's top elected official before police dispersed them with water cannons, a move that earned further condemnation from opposition leaders, who accused the government of being insensitive.

"We want to jolt people awake from the cozy comfort of their cars. We want people to feel the pain of what women go through every day," said Aditi Roy, a Delhi University student.

As protests raged in cities across India, at least two girls were gangraped, with one of them killed.

Police on Wednesday fished out the body of a 10-year-old girl from a canal in Bihar state's Saharsa district. Police superintendent Ajit Kumar Satyarthi said the girl had been



An Indian woman shouts slogans outside the Delhi police headquarters during Wednesday's protest in New Delhi following the rape of a 23-year-old student. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

gang-raped and killed and her body dumped in the canal. Police were investigating and a breakthrough was expected soon, Satyarthi said.

The 23-year-old victim lay in critical condition in the hospital with severe internal injuries, doctors said.

Police said six men raped the woman and savagely beat her and her companion

with iron rods on a bus driving around the city — passing through several police checkpoints — before stripping them and dumping them on the side of the road on Sunday night.

Delhi police chief Neeraj Kumar said four men have been arrested and a search was underway for the other two.

Sonia Gandhi, head of the ruling Congress Party, visited

the victim, promised swift action against the perpetrators and called for police to be trained to deal with crimes against women.

In New Delhi and across India, the outpouring of anger is unusual in a country where attacks against women are rarely prosecuted.

Opposition politicians shouted slogans and pro-

## Yet another attack

On the same day of the protests, a young girl in India's Banka district of Bihar was allegedly raped by four men.

- The 14-year-old was in critical condition after the attack, a district education officer said.
- The suspected rapists have been identified, but police have yet to make any arrests.

tested outside Parliament and called for making rape a capital crime. Cutting across party affiliations, lawmakers demanded the government announce a plan to safeguard women in the city.

Analysts say crimes against women are on the rise as more young women leave their homes to join the workforce in India's booming economy, even as deep-rooted social attitudes that women are inferior remain unchanged. Many families look down on women, viewing the girl child as a burden that forces them to pay a huge dowry to marry her off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Quoted**  
**"I feel it is sick what is happening across the country and it needs to stop."**

Smitha, a 32-year-old protester, criticizing the Indian mindset on sexual assault and violence against women.

## Pedophile probe absolves BBC bosses of coverup

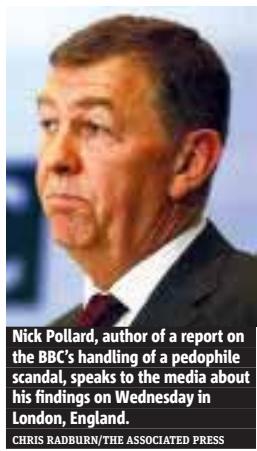
Institutional chaos and confusion — but not a coverup — were to blame for the BBC's disastrous handling of pedophilia allegations involving one of its best-known children's television personalities, an internal review found on Wednesday.

The review, carried out by former Sky News boss Nick Pollard, absolved BBC executives of trying to bury a potentially embarrassing story, saying that weak management and poor leadership were to blame for the fact that a planned exposé of the late TV star Jimmy Savile never aired on the flagship *Newsnight* program.

When the rival ITV network broadcast a similar exposé in October about Savile, who died in 2011 at the age of 84, the BBC came under fire for both harbouring an alleged serial sex abuser for decades and killing its own story about him.

"The *Newsnight* investigators got the story right," Pollard said. "They had found clear and compelling evidence that Jimmy Savile was a pedophile."

He said the decision by news executives to scrap the item "was clearly flawed, and the way it was taken was wrong, though I believe it was



Nick Pollard, author of a report on the BBC's handling of a pedophile scandal, speaks to the media about his findings on Wednesday in London, England.

CHRIS RADBURN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

taken in good faith."

The review said the BBC was thrown into disarray when allegations that Savile was a serial sexual predator were made public, taking more than a month to get a handle on the situation.

The scandal has since metastasized, tainting the reputation of the BBC. It also forced the resignation of the BBC's new director-general, George Entwistle, and raised questions about its former leader, Mark Thompson, who has since become chief executive at The New York Times.

The BBC's decision to cancel its initial investigation in December 2011 over the objections of its reporters was one of the scandal's most embarrassing episodes, especially as it preceded a glowing tribute to Savile's career broadcast the same month. The timing and the circumstances of the cancellation raised questions about whether senior executives tried to bury the story to protect the corporation's reputation.

The report published Wednesday absolved the executives of that — the most serious — charge. The review cost the BBC \$3.3 million.

The report does not appear to challenge Thompson's account of his role in the scandal — and Chris Patten, head of the BBC Trust, said after the review was published that he has "no reason at all for disbelieving" the former director-general.

Since the ITV documentary aired, scores of women have come forward, alleging they were abused by Savile when they were underage, sometimes in BBC dressing rooms. Police say Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape.

Two additional internal inquiries are still in the works.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## Philanthropy. Zuckerberg donates \$500M in stock

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is giving nearly \$500 million US in stock to a Silicon Valley charity with the aim of funding health and education issues.

Zuckerberg donated 18 million Facebook shares, valued at \$498.8 million US based on their Tuesday closing price. The beneficiary is the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a non-

profit that works with donors to allocate their gifts.

This is his largest donation to date. He pledged \$100 million US in Facebook stock to Newark, N.J., public schools in 2010, before his company went public earlier this year. With the latest contribution, he added, "we will look for areas in education and health to focus on next." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Market Minute



**DOLLAR**  
101.20¢  
(-0.25¢)

	TSX	12,403.63 (+69.29)
	OIL	\$89.98 US (+\$1.58)
	GOLD	\$1,667.70 US (-\$3)

Natural gas: \$3.32 (-10¢)  
Dow Jones: 13,251.97 (-98.99)

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# Penny's end to cost a mint

**Chump change.** New analysis shows price tag for redeeming one-cent coins in circulation will be about \$7.3M yearly

The demise of Canada's one-cent coin next year will save taxpayers less than expected.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the impending withdrawal of the penny in last March's budget, saying the government would save \$11 million a year in production costs.

That's because production of each one-cent coin had cost the Royal Canadian Mint about 1.6 cents. But a new analysis of costs shows that redeeming the mountain of circulating pennies beginning Feb. 4 will cost taxpayers about \$7.3 million a year.

The analysis projects a net cost of about \$38.3 million to redeem some six billion pennies expected to be turned in by consumers and financial institutions over the next six years.

Costs include \$53 million expected to be paid out to redeem the face value of the coins, as well as another \$27 million in handling and ad-



**Jeff Golby wears an oversized model of a penny on his head as he collects donations of one-cent coins for charity during this past summer's Canada Day festivities in Vancouver. The federal government is phasing out use of the Canadian penny, and the last one was minted this past May.** THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

ministration costs by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Recycling the zinc and copper from melted-down pennies will bring in about \$42.5 million in revenue, leaving government in the red at slightly more than \$38 million.

However, adding the \$11 million in annual savings from not minting any more pennies, which ceased production May 4

### By the numbers

**35B**

Over the past century, the Royal Canadian Mint has stamped an estimated 35 billion pennies from metal plates. The penny remains legal tender even after Feb. 4.

this year, still gives the government annual savings of almost

\$4 million over the expected six-year redemption period.

As the coins are withdrawn, cash transactions will begin to be rounded off to the nearest five cents, but there are no government-imposed rules or policing. Electronic transactions, such as those on debit cards or credit cards would still be registered in cents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lynden Park Mall  
Mapleview Shopping Centre  
Markville Shopping Centre  
Masonville Place  
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# VEGAS: WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS WRITTEN IN A COLUMN



Greetings, world travellers! The U.S. may have a Bible Belt to hold up the britches of the nation, but this week we look at Las Vegas, the city where pants are optional.

This luminous postage stamp in the middle of desert darkness is home to the American stereotype in all its glory. I have enough American friends to know the obvious — that the U.S. is incredibly diverse — but here in Vegas I'm surrounded by large boobs (not literally), large food (I had a crab cake with the same size and heft of a curling stone) and large cars (my 'compact' rental could comfortably seat a starting hockey lineup wearing its gear).

After four days here, I have compiled this exhaustive 350-word guide to Sin City, which contains oodles of useful information for your trip to Las Vegas. (LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This column contains no useful information about anything.)

## Las Vegas 101

Las Vegas, literally "Lots of Neon," was founded by itinerant escorts and slot-machine builders in the 1930s, who dreamed of a new America where all the worst jobs in the country could be concentrated in one place. Here you'll find tens of thousands of service workers who must put up with customers in a perpetual "Listen here, friend" state of 1-a.m.-drunkenness, and the servers do it all with a smile — a tight, painful smile. You will pity-tip more than you ever have in your entire life.

Fortunately, you'll have plenty of opportunities to distract yourself. For instance, while newspaper boxes lie empty in much of the United States, Vegas does a booming media trade with such well-respected publications as Barely Legal, College Girls! and Alt. Who Says Print is Dead?

And did you know that in Las Vegas it's legal to gamble? The only rule is that the gambling must take place in a one-third replica of some other place on Earth.

The casino resorts include:

- The Venetian, which has an exact replica of the Venice canals, right down to the neon-rimmed gondolas, the ice skating rink, and the country-western band playing covers on the hour. Viva Italia!
- New York, New York, which for just \$5 extra will give you a one-third mugging.
- The Bellagio, famous for its fountains, which are a replica of the Eastern European country Bellagistan and its three-times-bigger fountains.
- One shopping mall also looks like a (really) cheap one-third knock-off of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, so presumably there'll soon be a really earnest but widely disliked resort here soon with the slogan "A World-Class Casino ... Aren't We?"

Vegas could be tempting to dismiss as low-rent or vulgar, but unlike many other cities, it knows exactly what it is. And if you don't like it, well, nobody told you to travel to the middle of the desert.

The city also has many bars and whatnot, but I don't want to get into that because of space restrictions and just in case I ever want to run for U.S. Congress. Mistakes were made. We'll leave it at that.

Because, as the man said, you got to know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run. (That man, of course, was a one-third replica of Kenny Rogers.)



A sign of the times in Las Vegas. JOHN MAZEROLLE

# Takes an eagle eye to spot a hoax



THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Class project

### World fooled by Montreal video

Relax, world — your baby won't get snatched by an eagle if you visit Montreal.

An online video of the massive bird plucking an infant off the ground has been acknowledged by its creators as a fake.

The admission comes after the video, produced by students at a new-media training school in Montreal, was viewed millions of times Wednesday on YouTube and was the subject of news reports in Canada and internationally. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Other pranks

With the Internet in shock over the eagle/toddler hoax, Metro decided to revisit some other online video spoofs of the past.

• **Lonelygirl15.** This was an early online video blog depicting the life of a fictional teenager named Bree Avery. The series followed the typical angst-ridden teenager whose confessional videos covered things like her favourite stuffed animals or her first kiss. Over time, the show evolved to include a cult and the mysterious disappearance of Bree's parents. In the

fall of 2006, fans of the show discovered that Bree was actually a 19-year-old actress named Jessica Rose, and the show was revealed to be fake.

• **Dating site eHarmony cat lady.** A woman named Debbie tearfully confessed her love of felines in what appeared to be a dating site biography. The site released a statement after admitting it was a hoax.

• **Onion iPod charger.** A video purportedly showed a man charging his iPod using an onion and some Gatorade. It also garnered a

lot of press when frustrated Apple enthusiasts plugged their devices into various vegetables.

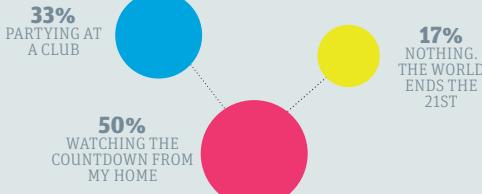
- **Microsoft 'viral marketing' slip and slide.** A video shows a man rocketing down a giant water slide before flying off a ramp at the end and landing in a small wading pool. The video was created using a stuntman and computer animation, and was eventually revealed to be part of a marketing campaign for Microsoft Office.

Watch these videos and more at [metronews.ca](#).



Register at [metropolitanpanel.ca](#) and take the quick poll

### What will you be doing for New Year's?



## Twitter

### @RacewayFilly:

Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is a new stomach and new back #ouchie

### @cinephile59:

Anyone going out Friday night? #ldnont

### @onterrioh:

Dear Sun, please shine... thanks.

### @MsRubyBlack:

Dear Santa, Please send snow. Thanks. @weathernetwork #ldnont

### @Robynowits:

They are rolling the turkey lunch for the students straight past my office. Meanies!! #shareplease #ldnont #trioscollege



London band Exit 2012 plays Friday — on the very apocalyptic event it's named after — at the Black Shire Pub. TIM GLASGOW

# The world's ending? Let's party! exclaims Exit 2012

## What's in a name?

Band didn't pick title just to host a Dec. 21 party



### BACKSTAGE PASS

Amanda Grant  
london@metronews.ca

Well, the apocalypse is almost here — or so the Mayans are supposedly telling us — so what better way to enjoy those final moments than with a party?

Friday Half a Dino is hosting an end-of-the-world shindig, featuring a set by local band Exit 2012.

Yes, that's the band's real name and no, they didn't form just for this event. Exit 2012 has been a fixture in the local experimental-rock scene for years, performing at the Electric Eclectics, Sweet Magic London and the London Outdoor Live Arts festivals.

"We don't play any songs," said Tim Glasgow, one of the band's guitarists.

"We just start playing, making everything up as we go along and whatever happens, happens."

Exit 2012's performances are varied. Rooted in rock music, the band incorporates elements of jazz and funk with experimental sounds created with synthesizers, pedals and gadgets.

The music is spontaneous, yet rehearsed. The band, composed of five talented local musicians, has a level of familiarity with one another that makes its brand of jam-rock thoughtful.

Although the band doesn't plan ahead what it will play, Glasgow said Friday's performance may have an apocalyptic tone.

"It might add a dollop of evilness to what we play, more dark and brooding," said Glasgow. "But then if I say that, we might end up sounding like the Talking Heads."

Friday's show also includes a set from London DJ Boyfriend Material that's sure to get the audience dancing. It's your last chance to get in on the fun before shipping off to in-law's homes and family dinners, so you better take

## Around town

- Music.** Thursday, the eighth annual holiday wrap is back at Call the Office. This hip-hop showdown features sets by local artists Toolshed, Moore and Exit Only and Halifax-based rapper Ghettosocks. Tickets are \$7 at the door. Music starts at 9:30 p.m.
- Art.** The Island of Misfit Dolls, named after the holiday classic Rudolph, is

a new exhibit on display now at the Dollarium Art Doll Emporium. The gallery has a range of pieces, some designed with a festive theme, by artists from around the globe, including Japan, England and our very own London, Ont. The gallery, located at 1 Cliftonvale Ave., near Hyland Cinema, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

advantage.

The end of the world party starts at 9 p.m. at the Black Shire Pub. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

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Kristen Stewart ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

## K-Stew's sorry for her cheatin' heart

Kristen Stewart knows she's upset more than a few fans over the course of her *Twilight* tenure — especially since her summer cheating scandal. "I apologize to everyone for making them so angry. It was not my intention," the actress tells *Newsweek*. "It's not a terrible

thing if you're either loved or hated. But honestly, I don't care because it doesn't keep me from doing my s—." And as for the hugely successful vampire franchise coming to an end? "The only relief when it comes to *Twilight* is that the story is done," she admits.



Angelina Jolie

## Angelina Jolie dusts off her director's hat

Angelina Jolie is set to return to the director's chair, choosing to adapt Laura Hillenbrand's Second World War survival story, *Unbroken*, as her second film, according to E! News. The story follows Louis Zamperini, an air force pilot who survived a crash and spent most of the war in a

Japanese prison camp. "I read Laura Hillenbrand's brilliant book and I was so moved by Louis Zamperini's heroic story, I immediately began to fight for the opportunity to make this film," Jolie says. Her directorial debut, *In the Land of Blood and Honey*, focused on the Bosnian war.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



### *The year of the lost locks — femmes who took it all off*



THE WORD  
Dorothy Robinson  
scene@metronews.ca

No more long locks for these ladies. Whether it was for a role of a lifetime or to bring awareness to a cause, here are some haircuts that turned heads this year.

**Who:** Anne Hathaway  
**Why:** The actress had to shave her head for her role as the prostitute Fantine in *Les Misérables*.  
**Current length:** Short. "I love the short-haired lifestyle," Hathaway says in the December issue of *Vogue*. "I'm turning 30, and — I hope this isn't obnoxious to say — I feel prettier, and much more myself. I guess I just feel much more satisfied with less now."

**Who:** Charlize Theron  
**Why:** Theron's shaved head is courtesy of her latest film role, *Mad Max: Fury Road*.  
**Current length:** Still shaved.

**Who:** Kellie Pickler  
**Why:** The American Idol singer got a buzz cut to support her best friend, Summer Miller, who had to undergo chemotherapy while being treated for breast cancer.  
**Current length:** Growing out a tad. "We made a pact from the get-go that we would shave our heads together," Pickler told E! Online about sharing the look with her best pal. "And we did."

**Who:** Miley Cyrus  
**Why:** Who knows. Probably because she's aching to be seen as more "edgy" than her Disney roots.  
**Current length:** It's not so much talking about length as it is talking about the crazy. As she wrote on Twitter when she originally lost the locks, "Never felt more me in my whole life."



Kate Middleton

## Kate Middleton determined to make the Royal Christmas

Despite her recent pregnancy-related hospitalization, Kate Middleton is vowing to put on a brave face for the Royal Family's Christmas dinner, according to Radar Online. "Kate doesn't want to disappoint the Queen, nor does she want to skip on her duties," a source says.

"She feels she is obliged to appear at the annual Christmas

dinner and doesn't want to let anyone down." Her husband, though, is offering an out. "William has his concerns though that she won't be up to it, and told Kate she shouldn't worry if she feels too sick to attend and that no one will judge her negatively," the source adds.

"But Kate isn't having it and is determined to be at the dinner, smiling as always."

### Twitter



@JLo

HOME!!!!!!



@ralphmacchio

Guess it's time to join the holiday shopping. Just not a fan of the obligatory equal or better gift mandates. #scrooging



@TheRealRoseanne

Dear World: It's been nice knowing U,4 the most part altho ur stupidity brings about the end of life-12-21-12, at least we laughed a lot! bye



@JonahHill

Instagram, you were my favorite app and you stabbed me in the back. I feel like I married you and you just slept with my best friend.

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**SHOPPERS**  
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# The Carly Rae kiss

The Call Me Maybe singer breaks down the craft of the smudge-free make-out, her Ryan Gosling crush and why she'd never play spin the bottle with Justin Bieber

ROMINA MCGUINNESS  
[life@metronews.ca](mailto:life@metronews.ca)

As she promotes her new album, Kiss, we asked Carly Rae Jepsen about makeup application and the art of making out, because we figured she must be an expert at it by now.

**Putting the makeup on...**  
"For a press event, I need one hour for my hair and makeup. But if it's just for me, I literally need 10 minutes. My grooming process has become shorter and shorter in my off-days. I like getting glammed up for the red carpet, but then being able to wear no makeup and be in flannel for a camping weekend. I'm like, 'Take me as I am.'"

**The spin the bottle test.**  
**Ryan Gosling — yay or nay?**  
"I've always had a thing for Ryan Gosling. I don't think



I'm alone in that! There's not one movie of his that I haven't liked. It's his personality. I've never met him, but the characters he

plays are very charming."  
**And Justin Bieber?**  
"He's my friend, that would be too strange. We would

never play that game together!"

**On making out**

"I've always had fairly pleasant experiences, but not, like, a lot of them! Kissing is all about how you feel about the person. If you have no chemistry, it can be totally meaningless. But if you have the right amount of flare, then it can be a really magical moment. I don't know if I'm a good kisser. I hope so."

**Video**

Watch Carly Rae Jepsen give a tutorial on how to kiss without smudging your lipstick on [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

## Holiday party skin savers

These are two products to turn to when the party starts showing up on your face

KENYA HUNT  
[life@metronews.ca](mailto:life@metronews.ca)

**La Prairie Advanced Marine Biology Day Cream SPF 20**



\$135, [laprairie.com](http://laprairie.com). Grab this potent face cream to recover from all of that dehydrating holiday drinking.

## Inside her makeup bag

Carly Rae Jepsen opens up her purse to show us the products she can't get through the day without

**MAC Lipstick in Lady Danger**



"I'm obsessed with this. It's a statement piece. It's kind of like an orangey red, but the perfect shade of it. It's a good pick-me-up if you have to get dolled up fast."

**Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Parfum**

"I'm really picky with scents. I can get sick of them after a day or two. Daisy has been one that I've really hung on to. It's not too domineering, really pleasant and kind of subtle. It feels really fresh every time I spray it on."



**MAC Eye Kohl in Teddy, Giorgio Armani mascara and Maestro Fusion foundation**

"If I'm doing my own makeup, and it's not for press, these are the three things I always use."



**Lancôme Visionnaire Advanced Skin Corrector**



\$60, [lancome.com](http://lancome.com). This is the serum to fill out those forehead creases that pop up after too many nights spent squinting in dark clubs.

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3  
HIT

# Is this the last supper?

**A bite of Belize.** This country was once home to the ancient Mayans, who are said to have predicted the end of the world on Dec. 21. If that's the case, go out with a full stomach

"Cochinita (small pig) pibil (to bury) literally translates to 'buried whole suckling pig,'" write the editors of Flavors of Belize magazine in their book of the same name about this recipe.

"Traditionally, you should marinate the pork in the same manner but cook the whole pig wrapped in banana leaves underground with fire wood and hot stones for hours until tender."

This recipe by Chef Sean Kuylen can also be cooked in a slow cooker, on low for 12 hours or on high for six hours.

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Pierce pork with knife and insert gar-

## Ingredients

- 5 lbs pork shoulder or pork leg, bone in
- 1 head garlic
- 1 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 1/2 tbsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp red recado, diluted to form paste
- 1/2 cup sour orange juice
- Smoked banana leaves
- 2 medium onions, quartered
- 2 medium green bell peppers, quartered
- 1/4 cup cilantro, minced

lic cloves all around.

2. Mix all dry ingredients; combine with recado, diluted in orange juice and coat pork. Marinate overnight.

3. Place pork in large roasting pan lined with banana leaves. Add onion, sweet pepper and place cilantro on top. Pour remaining marinade liquid and add more water to pan to approximately 1 inch

## Pureco Cochinita Pibil



This recipe serves eight. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

high. Cover with banana leaves and seal tightly with foil.

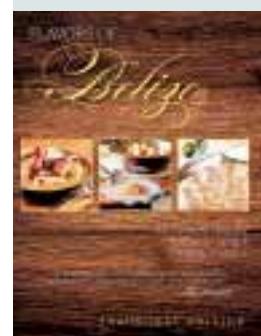
4. Bake for 5 hours or until

meat is very tender and starts to release from the bone. Shred pork and serve on warm corn tortillas topped with pickled

red onions or habanero salsa.  
ALL RECIPES ON THIS PAGE FROM FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK (MCNAB PUBLISHING LTD)

## Cookbook of the Week

### Dine like the Mayans



Published by McNab Publishing Ltd., Flavors of Belize includes a selection of soups and starters, main dishes and delectable desserts. Additionally, this cookbook hosts a variety of submissions from some of Belize's most renowned chefs and cooks. Each section opens with a brief explanation of the different cultures, whose history acts as the foundation of Belizean heritage. This colourful gastronomic guide delivers more than 120 recipes spanning cultures including the Maya, British, Mestizo, Creole, Chinese, Lebanese, Garifuna and more.

## Panades: A Belizean snack

1. For Fish Filling: place fish, epazote and cilantro in a pot with enough water to cover, boil until fish is cooked, approximately 15 minutes. Remove fish from pot and cool. Flake fish, combine with salt, black pepper, onion and garlic.

2. For Recado Paste: Grind

annatto seeds, allspice seeds and whole cloves to a powder. Combine annatto powder with sour orange and 1/4 cup of vinegar and process to a paste. May add more sour orange and vinegar if necessary to achieve a thick paste. Store in refrigerator.

3. For Panades, mix masa, baking powder and salt. Dissolve recado in water and add to masa until soft and masa holds. If using Masa harina, follow instructions on package. Form into 1 1/2 inch balls.

4. Place ball of masa in between 2 sheets of parchment

paper in the centre of a tortilla press and flatten. Place approximately 1 teaspoon of fish in the middle and fold over to form a patty, press edges to seal. Do not overfill.

5. Heat oil in a large frying pan and fry Panades until it floats, turn and cook until



This recipe serves 4 to 6. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

slightly crisp. Serve with hot pepper onion sauce.

6. For Hot Pepper Onion

## Ingredients

### Fish Filling

- 2 lbs fish fillet
- 6 epazote leaves, minced
- 2 to 3 tbsp cilantro leaves, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp onion, minced
- 1 tsp garlic, minced

### Red Recado Paste

- 5 tbsp annatto seeds
- 6 to 7 allspice seeds
- 1/4 tsp whole cloves
- 1/4 cup sour orange
- 1/4 cup vinegar

### Panades

- 1 1/2 lbs corn masa or 2 cups Quaker Masa Harina de Maiz

Sauce: Combine all ingredients and marinate for 2 hours or overnight. Will keep for several weeks in refrigerator.

- mix
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp red recado paste (see above)
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups fish fillet, cooked, flaked
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Hot Pepper Onion Sauce**
- 2 cups onions, minced
- 2 habanero peppers, deseeded, sliced
- 2 tbsp cilantro, minced
- 6 allspice seeds
- 1 1/2 cups vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tsp salt

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# Classic gifts for the pickiest decorator



## The fuzzy feeling

Whether it be real or faux, a fur throw slung over a chair or end of the bed has always made a luxurious statement in the home. From year to year the fur colours change (this year it's pale browns and greys), and there is always an animal print in fashion. Take a cue from designer Brian Gluckstein and his collection of throws (with a handsome leather carry handle) and live like a designer. Faux Fur Throw, \$149, thebay.com.

## Clink, clink on the cheap

Nothing breaks the mood of a fancy party than having to use the wrong glass when toasting a celebration. And trust me, using a wine glass to serve champagne does not impress anyone who is style conscious. I like to stock up on glass ones and have plenty of them. My go-to store is the Dollarama. Glass C h a m p a g n e Flutes, \$1, dollarama.com.



## A simple touch

A decorative box can sit handsomely on a front foyer table to hold keys, coins and cards, or on a dresser to hold jewelry, pens and keepsakes in the bedroom. The Agresti Gold Leaf Box adds simple lines and a subtle gold shine to decorate any table or dresser top. \$795, birks.com.



## Crystal accent

The classic round shape of the rose bowl (or goldfish bowl, as it's commonly called) is perfect for flowers. Three rose bowls in a row creates a modern appeal down the centre of a dining table or on a mantel. Tiffany's Floral Vine Rose Bowl holds a dozen red roses, a candle and more, \$330, tiffany.ca.



## Light it up

There is no decorator out there that doesn't like candles, and even better are a collection of candles on a tray. It's the perfect centrepiece on a dining table, coffee table or in the bath. Inexpensive candles mean filling the tray without breaking the bank. Glade Winter Collection Candles, \$5.50 each, glade.ca.



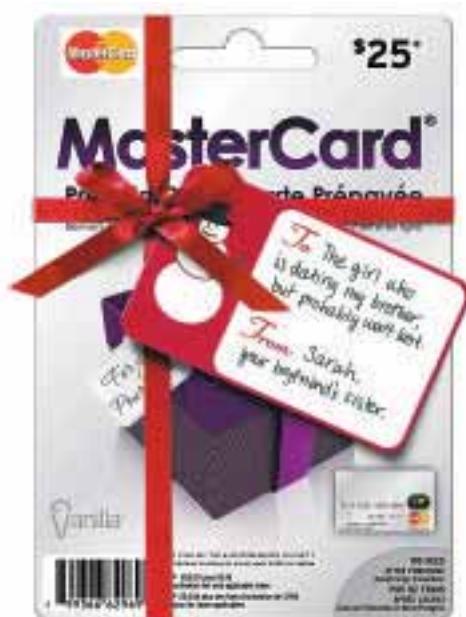
DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes

home@metronews.ca

## Charger chic

Decorate the simplest of china by adding a layer of silver underneath. Charger plates create instant shimmer and luxury to a dinner party table. Add cool silver shine and the natural imprint of wood-grain with charger plates from President's Choice, \$10 for 4. loblaws.ca.



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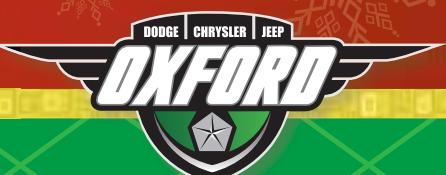


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# NHLPA waiting on NHL to resume talks: Fehr

**Lockout.** League not sure progress can be made at this point

Donald Fehr says the NHL Players' Association is ready to get back to the bargaining table at any moment.

He's just waiting for the NHL to feel the same way.

"(We aren't talking) because the owners have not indicated a desire to resume," the NHLPA's executive director said Wednesday night before a charity game. "We've indicated any number of times that we're

**Quoted**

**"We don't have anything new to say right now."**

**NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on the status of negotiations.** Daly created a stir earlier in the day when he made an appearance on CBC's HNIC Radio and was asked to give a simple yes or no answer on whether there would be an agreement in time to save the season. He responded "yes."

willing to resume when they are (and) we're willing to resume without preconditions.

"So we're waiting to hear back from them."

The sides haven't negotiated with one another since Dec. 6 in New York, when talks broke down. They also met with a U.S. federal mediator for two days in New Jersey last week and re-

ported no progress.

From the NHL's perspective, negotiations should only resume once there is something new to say.

"I don't think either party is refusing a meeting," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email. "But unless there is an indication one side or the other is prepared to move or

has a new idea to move the process forward — and so far neither side has indicated — I am not sure what we would do at the meeting.

"What is the agenda? Who is directing the conversation?"

Fehr indicated that he liked the idea put forward by Winnipeg Jets defenceman Ron Hainsey that the same parties who met two weeks ago return to the bargaining table, plus himself and commissioner Gary Bettman. Progress was made during a session that included four new owners and a number of players, including Sidney Crosby.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Taking back Stanley?**

## Reclaiming cup not on GG's mind

The Stanley Cup may have been created by the office of Canada's Governor General — but don't count on the current office-holder to take the trophy back.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston chuckled when asked whether the prospect of a cancelled season could prompt him to reclaim Canada's beloved relic.

Edmonton MP Brent Rathgeber has suggested the cup could be awarded in a competition to determine the best non-pro team in Canada. Also, one of the cup's full-time guardians recently said it would be "exciting" to have a mock tournament if the season is cancelled. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 4 SPORTS



## Canadians have strong showing at French World Cup event

Armin Niederer of Switzerland, third from left, performs during the final race on his way to winning a men's ski cross World Cup event ahead of Calgary's Brady Leman, right, American Joe Swensson, second from left, and London's David Duncan on Wednesday in Val Thorens, France. Leman finished behind Niederer for his second silver medal of the season and Duncan couldn't quite catch Swensson for bronze. LAURENT CIPRIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## World juniors. Knights blue-liner misses chance to play for home crowd

London Knights defenceman Nikita Zadorov was cut from the Russian world junior team on Wednesday.

The six-foot-five, 228-pound rookie is expected to be in the London lineup when the team returns to OHL action Dec. 27 against the Windsor Spitfires at Budweiser Gardens.

Zadorov, 17, leads the Knights with a plus-26 rating. He also has two goals and 10 assists in 31 games.

METRO



**Knights defenceman Nikita Zadorov was cut by the Russian national junior team on Wednesday.**

TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES

## London's Zelinka tops national athletics awards

London's Jessica Zelinka dominated Athletics Canada's awards for 2012, collecting three honours.

The heptathlete won the outstanding athlete of the year, the most outstanding athlete in track events, and the combined-events athlete of the year.

The winners were chosen by an awards committee from athletes nominated by the track-and-field community. They'll be honoured at the 2013 Canadian championships in June in Moncton, N.B.



**Jessica Zelinka** GETTY IMAGES FILE

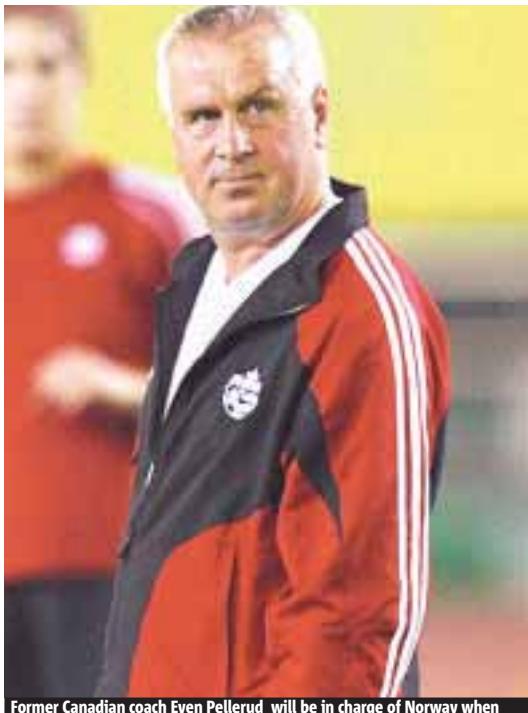
Zelinka capped an exceptional season by winning the Jack W. Davies Trophy as both the outstanding athlete and

combined-events athlete. She booked her ticket to the London Olympics with a Canadian record in the heptathlon at the Olympic trials, and added another victory in the 100-metre hurdles. Zelinka went on to finish seventh in London in both the heptathlon and 100-metre hurdles.

Zelinka and Phylicia George of Markham, Ont., tied for the Phil A. Edwards Memorial Trophy for outstanding athlete in track events.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Norway's national soccer team looks to get Even against Canada



Former Canadian coach Even Pellerud will be in charge of Norway when it faces our national team at the Four Nations women's soccer tournament in China next month. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Four Nations.** Pellerud looks to rekindle his homeland's lost glory at upcoming tournament

When Canada plays Norway at the Four Nations women's soccer tournament in China next month, a familiar face will be standing in front of the opposition bench.

Former Canadian national team coach Even Pellerud is back at the Norway helm, as of Jan. 1.

"I told my daughters the other day I will be playing against a team whose players I know much better than my own (Norwegian) players," he said.

The other teams at the Jan. 10-17 Four Nations are host

**Quoted**

**"He's a great tactician. He's got his style of play and it's effective."**

Canadian women's soccer coach John Herdman talks about Canada's former bench boss, Even Pellerud.

China and host South Korea.

Norwegian football officials had been talking to Pellerud about another position like technical director, but he was appointed coach after a staff reorganization.

Norway has had mixed results in recent years, failing to qualify for the London Olympics and exiting after the first round of the 2011 Women's World Cup. Norway is currently ranked 12th in the world, to Canada's seventh.

"Norway used to be top-ranked and there has been a slide down ever since.... There is a desire to come back — inside the women's program, in the Norwegian Football Federation," said Pellerud.

Under Pellerud's guidance, the Norwegian women won the 1993 European championship, the 1995 World Cup and a bronze at the '96 Olympics.

Pellerud stepped down as Canada coach after leading the team to the quarter-finals of the 2008 Olympics.

He guided Canada to ninth in the world in the FIFA world rankings and also led it to a fourth-place finish in the 2003 World Cup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Champions League draw. Barcelona and Vilanova set to learn of last-16 fate

Champions League favourite Barcelona and nine-time European champion Real Madrid are among nine former winners in the last-16 draw on Thursday.

Barcelona will find out its opponent as coach Tito Vilanova, who has led his team to a record start of 15 wins in 16 Spanish-league matches, undergoes surgery on this throat before beginning a course of chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

The club said Wednesday that 44-year-old Vilanova's treatment is expected to last six weeks until just ahead of the next Champions League fixtures in mid-February.

Barcelona, Madrid — and

their star forwards, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo — are joined in the draw by Champions League debutant Malaga and Valencia in a show of Spanish supremacy.

England's recent dominance of world football's most prestigious club competition has faded, and only Manchester United and Arsenal will represent the Premier League.

Seeded clubs: Barcelona,

Bayern Munich, Borussia

Dortmund, Juventus, Malaga,

Manchester United, Paris Saint-

Germain, Schalke. Unseeded clubs:

AC Milan, Arsenal, Celtic,

Celtic, Galatasaray, Porto, Real

Madrid, Shakhtar Donetsk, Valencia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Star striker Lionel Messi and Barcelona will find out their next Champions League opponents in Thursday's last-16 draw. JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

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## LONDON TRANSIT NEWS

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

#### Christmas Day December 25 (Tuesday)

For Christmas Day, December 25 the following routes will operate on special schedules:

1 Kippa Lane	9C Whitehills
2 Dundas	15 Westmount
3 Hamilton Rd.	16 Adelaide
4 Oxford East	20 Cherryhill
6 Richmond	21 Huron Heights
7 Wavell	

The following routes will operate on a regular Sunday/Holiday schedule:

5 Springbank	13 Wellington
10 Wonderland	14 Highbury
11 Southcrest	17 Oxford West
12 Wharncliffe	26 Jalna

On December 27, 28 and January 2 all routes will operate on a regular schedule

On January 1 all routes will operate on a Sunday/Holiday schedule

Separate Christmas and New Year's Eve schedules will be available after December 15 at both LTC locations (main office at 450 Highbury Avenue and downtown Ticket Office at 150 Dundas Street) and online at [www.ltconline.ca](http://www.ltconline.ca).

London Transit wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday!



**Horoscopes**

**Aries**

**March 21 - April 20**

The Sun joins Mars, your ruler, in the career area of your chart tomorrow, so you will be even more ambitious than usual. Impress those in positions of power but try not to do so at the expense of other people.

**Taurus**

**April 21 - May 21**

You are up for whatever life throws at you and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow, there will no holding you back. However, after your initial burst of enthusiasm you will need to settle into a steady routine.

**Gemini**

**May 22 - June 21**

It may at times seem as if the answers are "out there" waiting to be discovered but in reality they are "in here", where facts mean less than feelings. Take time to listen to your inner voice today — it has lots to tell you.

**Cancer**

**June 22 - July 23**

Don't worry too much if you have not been getting along with a certain person of late because you will soon be friends again. You will also find that your opinions were not nearly as far apart as you had previously believed.

**Leo**

**July 24 - Aug. 23**

You need to get serious about your work and your health. Because everything has been going so well for you of late, you have tended to overlook certain things but now it's time to take care of those boring details.

**Virgo**

**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**

Do something creative, something that gets you noticed. Everyone was born with an ability of some kind, so focus on your own special talent and make it work for you on all kinds of levels, including financial.

**Libra**

**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**

The next few days are going to be of added importance for family matters. You will certainly find it easier than usual to see the world through loved ones' eyes. Better understanding makes compromise possible.

**Scorpio**

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**

However hard you try, you will not change another person's viewpoint. And however hard they try, they will not change yours. So what can you do? You can steer clear of each other as much as is humanly possible.

**Sagittarius**

**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

Over the next few days, your thoughts will turn to what you own, what you earn and, more importantly, how you can start earning more. Get rid of a dozen ideas but the one that remains will make you rich.

**Capricorn**

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**

The old solar year is coming to an end and when the Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow, a new cycle will begin. After the disappointments of recent weeks, it will feel wonderful to know that all things are possible.

**Aquarius**

**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**

Get away for a while. Leave the chaos and confusion of everyday life far behind. Before you go, let someone know that you do not exist to cater to their every whim. You have needs too and they must be satisfied.

**Pisces**

**Feb. 20 - March 20**

Recent cosmic activity has made it possible for you to move up in your work or career. Now you must decide if you are happy with what you accomplished or if you want to go higher still. It's your choice.

SALLY BROMPTON

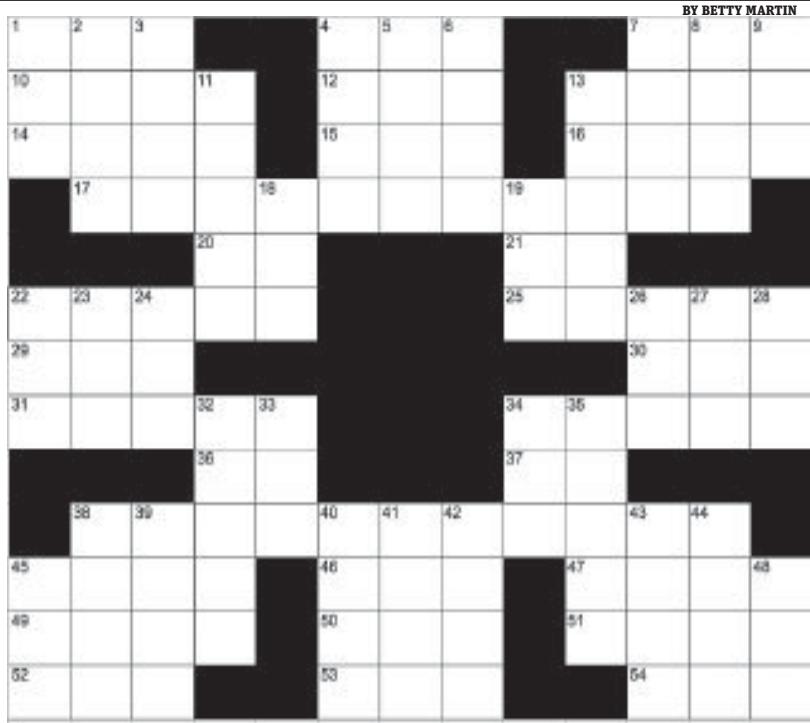
**Crossword**

**Across**

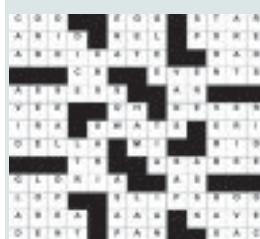
1. Vestment
4. Keyboard key
7. Nickname of comedian Bill
10. One not to be trusted
12. Havana greeting
13. —'70s Show
14. Thin Man's dog
15. Soup container
16. Rodents
17. Stargazers
20. Movie alien
21. Egyptian Sun God
22. Touched by an Angel actress
25. Carry in inventory
29. Pester
30. "Norma —"
31. Tempest
34. Beautify
36. Battery sz.
37. Head out
38. Ethel's partner in hijinks
45. Pitch
46. Gobbled up
47. Tiny amount
49. Police activity
50. Cartoon pooch
51. Barbershop sound
52. Hill dweller
53. CPR specialist
54. Opposite of WNW

**Down**

1. Chicken - King
2. One of The Simpsons
3. Belfry inhabitants
4. Fired tortilla
5. Star of M\*A\*S\*H
6. U2's lead vocalist
7. Cinders
8. Bran source
9. Ave. crossers
11. Hotel fees
13. Halloween indulgence
18. Road abbr.
19. Robinson or Doubtfire
22. Found in the ER
23. Have a bite
24. Self
26. Gold, to Juan
27. My Mother the —
28. Olin of thirtysomething
32. Participated in a marathon
33. Spring mo.
34. Turkish title
35. Roberts of Everybody Loves Raymond
38. Bank transaction
39. Kind of price
40. Steak order
41. Ledger entry
42. Penny
43. Completed
44. Soul singer Redding
45. La-la lead-in
48. Mimic



**Yesterday's Crossword**



**What's online**

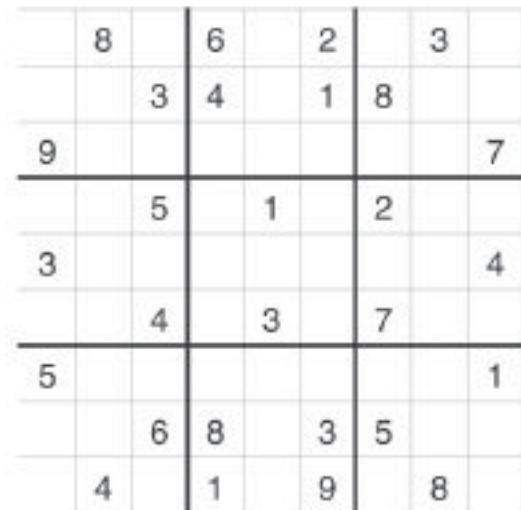
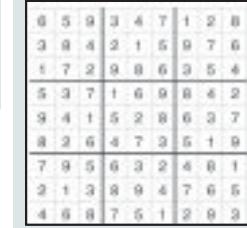
See today's answers  
[metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers)



**Sudoku**

**How to play**  
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

**Yesterday's Sudoku**



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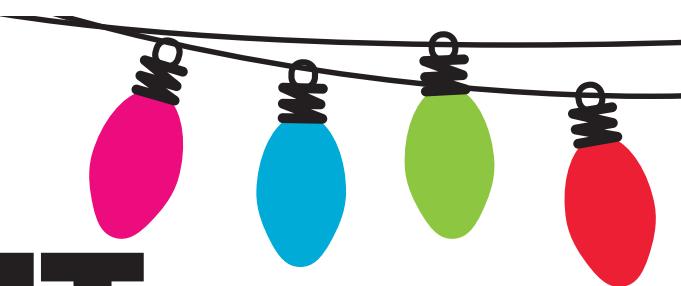
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